General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/484/Add.2)*]

58/211. International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 12 of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,[1]

Recalling also the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[2]

Recalling further the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[3] and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[4]

Having considered decision 22/15 of 7 February 2003 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on an international year of deserts and desertification,[5]

Deeply concerned by the exacerbation of desertification, particularly in Africa, and its far-reaching implications for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular on poverty eradication,

Recalling the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[6]

Conscious of the need to raise public awareness and to protect the biological diversity of deserts as well as indigenous and local communities and the traditional knowledge of those affected by this phenomenon,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. 1, resolution 2, annex.

[4] Ibid., resolution 1, annex.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/58/25), annex.

[6] A/57/304, annex, paras. 138-142.

1. *Decides* to declare 2006 the International Year of Deserts and Desertification;

2. *Designates* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as focal point of the Year, in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other relevant bodies of the United Nations;

3. *Invites* all countries to establish national committees or focal points and to celebrate the Year by arranging appropriate activities;

4. *Calls upon* all relevant international organizations and Member States to support the activities related to desertification, including land degradation, to be organized by affected countries, in particular African countries and the least developed countries;

5. *Encourages* countries to contribute, as they are able, to the Convention and to undertake special initiatives in observance of the Year with the goal of enhancing the implementation of the Convention;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the status of preparations for the Year.

78th plenary meeting
23 December 2003